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Application Serial No: 10/528,754
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: December 13, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the final Office Action mailed on December 13, 2006. Claims 1 and 3 are amended. Claim 1 is amended editorially and is supported, for example, in the specification on page 13, line 27-page 14, line 8 and page 16, lines 17-20 and in Figures 1 and 2. Claim 3 is amended editorially to remove the features now found in claim 1. Claim 6 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Claims 1-5 and 7 are pending.

102(b) Rejections:

Claims 1-7 are rejected as being anticipated by EP Patent No. 0933663 (EP '663). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a composite display unit having a first display element and a second display element that is provided overlapping the first display element that requires, among other features that the second display element comprises a liquid crystal panel in which a liquid crystal layer is held between third and fourth transparent substrates and that the second transparent substrate is directly joined to the third transparent substrate of the second display element.

EP '663 does not disclose or suggest these features. EP '663 is directed to a liquid crystal display device that includes: a first liquid crystal display panel (100) with a first substrate (11) and a second substrate (13); a second liquid crystal display panel (200) with a third substrate (16) and a fourth substrate (18); and a third polarization film (23) that is joined to the fourth substrate (18). The rejection interprets fourth substrate (18), third substrate (16), first substrate (11) and second substrate (13) as the first transparent substrate, second transparent substrate, third transparent substrate and the fourth transparent substrate of claim 1, respectively. However, under this interpretation, third substrate (16) is not directly joined to first substrate (11) of the first liquid crystal display panel (100) as would be required by claim 1. Moreover, if third substrate (16) and second substrate (13) are interpreted to be the second transparent substrate and the third transparent substrate of claim 1, respectively, EP '663 still does not disclose or suggest that the second transparent substrate is directly joined to the third transparent substrate as required by claim 1, because a second polarizing film (22) and a diffusion layer (57) is

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joined between second substrate (13) and the third substrate (16) (see paragraphs [0139] and Figure 11). Accordingly, light that travels from the third substrate (16) to the second substrate (13) will become significantly attenuated by the polarizing film (22). For at least these reasons claim 1 is not anticipated by or unpatentable over EP '663. Claims 2-5 and 7 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully assert claims 1-5 and 7 are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 455-3800

By: 

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM/ahk